

The Weekly Monitor

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BRIDGETOWN, ANNAPOLIS COUNTY, NOVA SCOTIA, AUGUST 11, 1915

NO 18

A LETTER FROM THE FRONT

How it Feels to Shoot at a Man, and a German Sword With a Saw Edge as Described in Letter of Sergeant Ronald Allen to his Father

(Chatham World)

One can hardly imagine that there is a war on, from the look of the country back of the fighting line. As I write this the birds sing cheerily back of the trenches and it seems a comical mixture, shells and birds singing. This is a very pretty country, but it is scarred and torn by shells. Just back of our trench there is a small village, about the size of Douglstown, blown to pieces with high explosives. Can you imagine sleepy old Douglstown in ruins? On our right is a one time prosperous farm house, but it would make your heart bleed to see the ruins now. An odd fatter is all that remains of the roof. Yesterday they sent shell after shell into it, and they were 17 in. at that. —Just ahead of us, behind the German line, is another small hamlet in ruins, like the others. It is at the foot of a ridge, and must have been a pretty spot before the war. It isn't very pretty now.

I am in support trenches now, and our firing line lies about twenty yards in front. Ahead of that again is a German trench that we captured but were unable to hold on account of enfilade fire. It is chock full of dead Germans and British and some Canadians too. It's a horrible sight, all blown to pieces by our artillery fire. Our chaps gave them socks with the cold steel. Man to man we can trim them, three to one and more. They can't stand the bayonet at all. The Germans have several different sorts of bayonet. One of them is a long thick blade of steel, with a saw on the back edge. It is a cruel looking weapon, but they have not the nerve to use it much.

I am on the hunt after a good helmet to send you. I could pick up tons of them, but I want an officer's helmet, one of the Prussian Guards if possible. I am sending some German cartridges and a badge of a helmet, as soon as I can get the money to pay for the postage.

I hope you don't mind the smuts on the paper. My hands and face are so dirty you wouldn't know me. You asked me to tell you of an engagement and how it feels to shoot at a man.

Well, about the shooting at a man, a fellow feels the same as shooting at a game or a bird. You shoot to kill and it gives you great satisfaction if he drops. I am a fairly good shot

and have done a bit of good shipping out here. My first engagement was very hot, I tell you. It tried my nerves to the utmost. We left our billets about five in the morning and marched about ten miles to a reserve trench, away behind the firing line. We stayed there until seven that evening, then we shifted to a small village for the night. I slept in a blacksmith shop that night. Started at six the next morning and marched about two miles to a trench, about 1000 yards behind the firing line.

We found about sixty dead men near the trench I was in and we buried them that night. Next evening about five o'clock the captain got us gathered round him and told us of a proposed attack. We had to advance and take up a position about fifteen hundred yards to our front in a small orchard. You probably read of it in the papers. It is called the "Orchard fight" and it was a success in every way. At 6.30 we left our trench and started to advance at an ordinary pace. Then the shells started bursting around us and over our heads. I thought my last hour had come. We went about six hundred yards and were compelled to drop into a reserve trench for about ten minutes until it eased off. Then at it again.

Well we struck the road and the Germans had the range down to a fine point and they were slamming Jack Johnsons and shrapnel right into it. It took a bit of nerve to go up that road but we had to get there at all costs. I went up about two hundred yards and then dropped into a ditch along with six others. Holy smoke! The noise of the bursting shells would deafen you. Great pieces of shell hummed a few inches over my head as I lay in the shallow ditch, with my nose buried in the mud. If one of those chunks of jagged steel had hit me it would have been good by.

Well, it eased off a bit on the shell- ing, but the bullets were flying thick and fast. But nobody cared for bullets. We started out and got up the road another couple of hundred yards safe. Just as I got opposite a ruined house I heard the whistle of a big shell. I dropped into an old cart and it burst on the other side of me. Another came and then another, and I said to myself, "this is no place for little Ronnie." so I hauled out of there pretty fast. I got into an old trench and stayed there about an hour while

they plunked the big shells all around. Then No. 1 Company started for the firing line and I went up with them. We were in the German communication trench, which we were using as the front line trench. Well I had no water with me for I had given it all to wounded fellows whom I ran across on my way up, and I was about 32 hours without food or water under a burning sun. We stayed in the front trench for three days and a half, then we were relieved by the first brigade. When we started from the front line to go back, they took us the wrong way and we got all tangled up. About half of us got into an old farm yard, and they made a lot of noise and the Germans started shelling us with shrapnel. I saw that it was too dangerous to stay with them and I beat it off on my own. The bullets were going thick and fast, right across the road which I had to go down. To make matters a million times worse there was a great electric storm, and if you walked upright for ten yards a flash of lightning would reveal you as plain as day and you had to drop to the ground or be plugged.

I lay in a Jack Johnson hole while the bullets zipped over my head. Then I got off at last down the road and at last I got out of rifle range. But you would never have known me for mud. I was exhausted. My nerves were shaken pretty bad and when I reached the billet I was too tired to issue the rations to my section. It was a Sunday morning that we got out, but I didn't get to mass that day. That ended my first engagement. I can't tell you on paper how an engagement is. I might tell you better if I was home. But if you don't see me again don't worry too much for it is a better death than a death at home when we need every man out there who can be spared from home duties.

Patriotic Meeting Held on School Ground

The Patriotic Meeting on the school grounds, on Thursday evening last was well attended and interesting from first to last. The speakers addressed the audience in the following order: J. Ervin, Esq., K. C., A. L. Davidson, Esq., M. P. Rev. A. R. Reynolds, and Rev. A. N. Marshall of Winnipeg. The speeches were all to the point, and were all of a high order. They could not fail to impress the conviction upon the minds of every listener that this is a critical and crucial time not only for the British Empire but for the cause of personal liberty and democracy the world over. The aid of the Bridgetown Band on the occasion was much appreciated.

Minard's Liniment Cures Distemper.

THE EUROPEAN WAR

British Troops Gained Big Success in Belgium

LONDON, Aug. 9.—Sir John French, Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in France, reports that the lost trenches at Hooge, east of Ypres, Belgium, have been re-taken by the British troops, and that they have advanced on a front of 1,200 yards.

The statement of Field Marshal French said:

"Since my communication of August 1, the artillery on both sides has been active north and east of Ypres. In these exchanges the advantage has been with us.

"This morning, after a successful artillery bombardment, in which the French on our left co-operated effectively, we attacked the trenches at Hooge, captured by the enemy on July 30th. These were all re-taken, and following up this success we made further progress north and west of Hooge, extending the front of the trenches captured to 1,200 yards.

"During this fighting our artillery shelled a German train at Langemark (five miles northeast of Ypres), derailing and setting fire to five trucks.

"The captures reported amounted to three officers and 124 men of other ranks and two machine guns."

German Forces Are in Possession of Warsaw

LONDON, Aug. 5.—The Germans are in possession of Warsaw, the capital of Poland, and the third largest city in the Russian Empire. Bavarian troops entered the city this morning, having taken successively the Blonie lines and the outer and inner fortresses of the town itself, the Russians only fighting rearguard actions to allow their main army to make good its escape.

While the Bavarians, commanded by Prince Leopold has fallen the honor of taking over Warsaw in the name of the German Emperor, and his Consort, who are expected to make a state entry within a few days, the real conquerors are troops fighting under Field Marshal Von Hindenburg along the Narew River to the northeast, to the Austro-Germans who crossed the Vistula to the south of the city, and to the armies of the Austrian Archduke Joseph Ferdinand, and the German Field Marshal Von Mackensen who are advancing northward between the Vistula and Bug rivers.

The Russians are fighting desperately and stubbornly to check the progress of these four armies and have had several successes, inflicting heavy losses on their pursuers; but they are being steadily pressed back, which made the longer occupation of Warsaw, the Polish Capital harder.

Although the steadiness of Russian troops and their fierce counter-attacks have gained time for them, it is problematical whether the whole Russian army will succeed in reaching the new positions chosen for it, or whether, if it should get there, it will not find these positions turned by the Austrians who have crossed the Bug southeast of Chelm, and the Germans under General Von Scholtz and Von Gallwitz, who have crossed the Narew.

At the northeastern end of the line the Russian communications are further threatened by General Von Buelow who is advancing toward Divisk on the Vilna-Petrograd railway. Indeed the Austro-Germans have set their traps to catch and destroy the Russian army. None of them was sprung, but one was so near to closing that the Duke Nicholas was forced to evacuate Warsaw, and now is fighting with all his might, to prevent the others from cutting off his retreat.

WAR BRIEFS

A soldier who lost his leg remarked philosophically, "Well, at least, I've lost that rheumatism in the knee which has bothered me so long.

Hurrying along the road from the doomed capital of Artois were blind boys and girls, walking in single file, holding tight to one another. They slipped and stumbled and sometimes fell into the mud.

"The Nation" says, One thing is certain. Bulgaria will never join Germany. The people would not permit it.

Speaking of the troops at the Dardanelles, Sir Ian Hamilton says, "No finer feat of arms has ever been achieved by the British soldier, or any other soldier, than the storming of these trenches from open boats."

The war has interfered with the banana trade of the West Indies, making the prices low. Scientists are making out of the dried article a flour cheaper than wheat flour, and equal, if not superior, in nutritive qualities.

The penalty in England for not sending in the registration paper on the proper day is five pounds, and one pound for each day afterwards. A warning to "slackers."

Tasmania, one of the smaller Provinces of Australia suffers by the war. 1100 rabbit catchers have lost their jobs. They were accustomed to send the skins to Austria for the making of hats.

What it costs to gain a V. C. "Lance Corporal Kepworth stood exposed for two hours on the top of the enemy's parapet and threw about 150 bombs amongst the Germans who were only a few yards away."

One trouble aviators meet in flying is raindrops. The propellers often make 1,200 revolutions a minute, and at that speed, raindrops striking the framework will chip off pieces of the wood, and striking the face of the aviator will bruise it as a blow from a hard substance.

A steamer under the charter of the N. S. Steel and Coal Co., loaded with 6,000 tons of iron ore from Wabana, was torpedoed by Germans and sank. The crew were landed in Scotland.

Of the nearly 4,000 students which were in attendance at the University of Oxford when the war broke out all but 600 have enlisted. Of this 600 only 80 of Anglo-Saxon birth, and of this 80 there was practically no one who could measure up to the requirements of physical fitness.

The 109th Regiment, Toronto, obtained from the Street Railway Company a car. On the front it bears the sign "To Berlin, via the 109th Regiment". On the fender, "Your King is calling you. How will you answer him?" On the side, "If you want to enlist, jump on this car" Inside is a table at which recruiting officers are seated. On a tour of the streets, the response was better than was expected.

A concrete Tennis Court, with a foundation several feet deep has been discovered in the garden of a German, in a position commanding the Soulzanges Canal and Railway bridge, near Montreal.

The Allies have ordered 20,000 portable houses for Belgium and Northern France. A forerunner of another winter campaign.

One hundred million dollars worth of German and Austrian shipping is held up in New York harbour. The U. S. will hold these ships in case of war.

It is said the newest type of British torpedo has an effective range of four miles, and will make as large a hole as a haystack in the side of a ship.

BRIDGETOWN MACHINE GUN

"Stand by Your Country, Now That it Has Risked its Honor, its Life, in the Most Chivalrous Cause for Which any Nation Ever Went into Battle."

These words of Lloyd George are not boastful, over extravagant, or vain-glorious. The conscience of the nation attests to their truth. It is this which has made the scattered peoples of the Empire unite, as never before, in the determination to overthrow the military despotism whose aim is to dominate the world, and rule it with a rod of iron. Never, in all history is there an instance in which such pomposity and insolence have found expression in words as in those of the German Kaiser.

Every machine gun put in the hands of our brave Canadian soldiers will help to defeat his arrogant pretensions and advance the cause of universal liberty and peace.

Reported last week to the Bridgetown Machine Gun \$65.00
Mayor Longmire reports the following additional sums,—
A Helper \$20.00
Mrs. John Chadwick \$3.00
Miss Manners \$2.00
Court Valley 899, Canadian Order of Foresters \$150.00
George Saunders \$5.00
Rev. A. N. Marshall \$1.00
Mrs. Lee \$20.00
Miss F. M. Johnson \$2.00
Miss Edith Crookill \$2.00
Mrs. Helen Phinney \$1.00
Anonymous \$50.00

List of Contributors to Country Machine Gun in Clarence West

Collected by Mrs. Chas. E. Wheeler

Mr William Spurr \$5.00
Mrs. C. E. Wheeler \$5.00
Mr. Vernon Goldsmith \$3.00
Mr. Adoniram Rumsey \$5.00
Mr. Freeman Corbett \$5.00
Marshall Brothers \$5.00
Mr. Fletcher Wheelock \$10.00
Mr. Arthur Wheelock \$5.00
Miss Mildred Wheelock \$5.00
Mr. Charles Saunders \$5.00
Dr. D. Saunders \$5.00
Mr. LeMont Saunders \$3.00
Mr. Ezra Sebeanski \$1.00
Mr. Enoch Woodworth \$5.00
Mr. William Stronach \$5.00
Mr. Alfred Berry \$2.00
Mr. Thomas Handley \$1.00
Mr. William Miller \$5.00
Mr. Ernest Miller \$5.00
Mrs. Earnest Miller \$2.00
Mr. M. Pyke \$3.00
Mr. Stanley Marshall \$5.00
Miss Mabel Marshall \$4.00
Mr. A. T. Marshall \$5.00
Mr. Judson Chute \$5.00
Mr. Atherton Marshall \$5.00

DISPOSAL OF CLOTHING FOR DOMINION ATLANTIC RAILWAY

BELGIAN RELIEF

Decreased Train Service

To the Editor of the Bridgetown Monitor:

The following note was received in reply to an inquiry as to the disposal of clothing sent to Halifax last spring for the Belgian Relief Fund. Will you kindly publish it for the benefit of those who are still in doubt as to the destination of the goods.

I have received your letter of August 4th re Belgian Relief work, and note that a report is circulating that the clothing is lying in warehouses at Halifax. All clothing shipped to Halifax went forward to New York some time ago to the War Relief Clearing House for France and her Allies, from whence it was shipped to France for distribution. Owing to conditions it was impossible to forward any more clothing to Belgium and hence it was diverted to France.

You may inform all who so generously contributed to this work that nothing has been wasted and nothing is now lying at Halifax.

Yours truly,
ARTHUR S. BARNSTEAD,
Secretary.

TRAIN NO. 96. Daily Service (Sunday excepted) from Middleton to Kentville is cancelled after Thursday, August 12th, 1915. Thereafter No. 96 will run from Middleton to Kentville on MONDAYS only.

TRAIN NO. 97. Daily Service (Sunday excepted) from Kentville to Middleton is cancelled after Wednesday, August 11th, 1915. Thereafter No. 97 will run from Kentville to Middleton on SATURDAYS only.

Service of Trains No. 96 and 97 between Kentville and Halifax continues daily, (except Sunday.)

Saturday evening trips of train No. 21 leaving Annapolis for Digby at 8.30 p. m., and Train No. 22 leaving Digby for Annapolis at 9.45 p. m., are cancelled. These trains will run on WEDNESDAY evenings only.

P. GIPKINS,
Kentville, Aug. 2 15. Gen'l Mgr.

Work is progressing quite satisfactorily on the new sewer. The Hoyt hill has been cut through and pipe laid as far as the residence of Mr. John Ross.

Royal Bank of Canada

INCORPORATED 1869.

Capital Paid up - - - \$11,560,000
Reserve Funds - - - 13,575,000

Savings Department Accounts may be opened with an initial deposit of One Dollar. Interest is credited half yearly.

Joint Account An account in the name of two members of a family will be found convenient. Either person (or the survivor) may operate the account

A. F. LITTLE MANAGER, Bridgetown
F. G. PALFREY MANAGER, Lawrencetown
E. B. McDANIEL MANAGER, Annapolis Royal.

MY BUSINESS HOURS

Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays

Nine a. m. until 12 noon. One p. m. until six p. m.

Tuesdays and Saturdays

Nine a. m. until twelve noon. One p. m. until six p. m. Seven p. m. until ten p. m.

My Shop will not be opened on Wednesdays until further notice

The merchants of Digby, Annapolis and Middleton are taking a half-holiday every week and find it of great benefit.

You can SAVE MONEY by buying your Dry Goods at my Store

WALTER SCOTT, The "Keen Kutter"

Granville Street The Royal Bank Building (Next Door to Public Telephone Station) Bridgetown